

REPLACEMENT ABSTRACT

A method for increasing the hardness of silica/rubber mixtures ~~is disclosed wherein the method comprises~~ includes blending with ~~said the~~ mixture at least one silane and a hardness-increasing amount of at least one member selected from the group consisting of thixotropic fumed silica[[:]], precipitated silica[[:]] and an MQ resin₂ wherein Q is SiO_{4/2}, M is R¹R²R³SiO_{1/2}, and R¹, R², and R³ are the same or different functional or non-functional organic groups[[:]], carbon black[[:]], a thermoplastic resin[[:]] ~~and~~ or a thermosetting resin.